

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 IOE-00 OIC-02 /118 W
-----181323Z 061453 /41

P 181056Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4409
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1688

DEPT PASS OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

MAPUTO FOR IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, ILO, SU
SUBJECT: ILO 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC)

REF: (A) STATE 102699; (B) STATE 103403

1. CHARGE AND ECON CHIEF CALLED ON MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM (LABOR) KARAMALLA AWAD ON MAY 16 AND DISCUSSED UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE AS INSTRUCTED. AWAD WILL LEAD SUDANESE DELEGATION TO CONFERENCE. THIS WILL BE HIS FIRST ILO MEETING AS HE ONLY ASSUMED HIS PRESENT POSITION IN FEBRUARY SHORTLY AFTER HOROWITZ VISITED SUDAN.

2. BEYOND REVIEW OF US POSITION IN ILO AND REASONS FOR OUR LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW, PARTICULAR STRESS IN OUR REPRESENTATIONS WAS PLACED ON AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17. AWAD'S PREDECESSOR AND THE PREVIOUS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (BOTH CONFIDENTIAL

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CALLED UPON BY HOROWITZ) HAD EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN DEPOLITICIZATION OF THE ILO AND THE BENEFICIAL TECHNICAL ROLE THAT ILO CAN AND SHOULD PLAY. WE ASKED THAT SUDAN SEEK SEAT ON STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE AND SUPPORT OUR POSITION ON ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT AND TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN DEBATE. AWAD WAS ATTENTIVE AND ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS, BUT WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON POSITIONS SUDAN WILL TAKE ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. HE REITERATED

SUDAN'S POSITION THAT THEY WANT US TO CONTINUE ITS MEMBERSHIP IN ILO.

3. ON MAY 14, ECON CHIEF MADE SIMILAR REPRESENTATIONS TO COMMISSIONER OF LABOR OSMAN M. AHMED WHO IS SENIOR CAREER LABOR OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY PUBLIC SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM. HE HAS PARTICIPATED IN NUMEROUS ILO MEETINGS AND HEADED SUDANESE DELEGATION TO MOST RECENT MEETING OF ILO GOVERNING BOARD. HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, BUT DEMONSTRATED A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF USG CONCERNS ON ILO. HE WILL BE A MEMBER OF SUDANESE DELEGATION TO ILC AND MAY BE OUR BEST CONTACT DURING CONFERENCE.

4. SUDAN'S DELEGATION TO ILC PROBABLY WILL CONSIST OF 8-10 MEMBERS. PRECISE COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION NOT YET DETERMINED.

5. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RAISE ILO ISSUES AT POLICY LEVEL IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF MINISTER, MINISTER OF STATE, UNDERSECRETARY AND OTHER KEY OFFICERS. CHARGE HAS APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS THURSDAY, MAY 19, AT WHICH TIME HE WILL DISCUSS ILO. MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM SAID ROLE OF MFA ON ILO ISSUES IS SMALL AND MFA PROBABLY WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED ON SUDANESE DELEGATION TO ILC. WE PLAN PARALLEL REPRESENTATIONS TO WORKER REPRESENTATIVE ON DELEGATION WHEN NAMED.

5. COMMENT: ULTIMATE SUDANESE POSITION ON MAJOR ISSUES IN ILC ULTIMATELY WILL BE DETERMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER
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ARAB STATES. WE BELIEVE THAT IF EGYPT WILL SUPPORT OUR AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17, SUDAN PROBABLY WILL GO ALONG. PREVIOUS MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM HAD TAKEN STRONG POSITION IN FAVOR OF MODIFICATION OF ILO STRUCTURE TO GIVE GREATER WEIGHT TO LDC VIEWS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER NEW MINISTER WILL BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON THIS ISSUE. SUDAN GENERALLY FAVORS DEPOLITICIZATION OF ILO AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT ANY MEASURES TO ASSURE EQUAL TREATMENT AND APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS, PARTICULARLY AS THEY RELATE TO USSR. IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES MAY WISH REINFORCE OUR DEMARCHE DURING HIS VISIT HERE NEXT WEEK.
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Message Attributes

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